

Senate Resolution 1409

By: Senators James of the 35th, Orrock of the 36th, Tate of the 38th, Butler of the 55th, Davis of the 22nd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport's Aviation
2 General Manager Benjamin R. DeCosta on the occasion of his retirement; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Benjamin R. DeCosta has provided unparalleled leadership and vision to
5 Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport as Aviation General Manager; and

6 WHEREAS, a native of New York, Mr, DeCosta earned a bachelor's degree in physics from
7 Queens College and a law degree from New York Law School and holds designation from
8 the American Association of Airport Employees as an Accredited Airport Executive; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. DeCosta has diligently and conscientiously devoted his time, talents, and
10 energy to the airport as general manger since 1998, providing quality customer service and
11 impeccable security to visitors of one of the busiest international airports in the world; and

12 WHEREAS, as general manager, Mr. DeCosta is in charge of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta
13 International Airport's over \$6 billion capital improvement program, which upgraded the
14 existing central passenger terminal complex and adds a new runway, terminal, rental car
15 center, and south gate complex; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2007, Mr. DeCosta and his team celebrated the first anniversary of the new
17 fifth runway at the airport, which has been labeled the most important runway in America
18 and has significantly contributed to a substantial decrease in delays and saves the airlines
19 millions of dollars every week; and

20 WHEREAS, under Mr. DeCosta's leadership and guidance the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta
21 International Airport remains Georgia's crown jewel, employing more than 56,000 employees
22 and producing a financial impact of \$23.5 billion for the State of Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. DeCosta is active in numerous professional organizations, including the
24 American Association of Airport Employees and the Airports Council International; and

25 WHEREAS, he has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades throughout his
26 prestigious career such as Best Airport Director of the Year Award in 2007 from *Airport*
27 *Review News*; and

28 WHEREAS, during his tenure as general manager the airport has been named the most
29 efficient major airport in the world by the Air Transport Research Society, the Executive
30 Travelers' Best Large U.S. Airport by American Express, and the Best Very Large Airport
31 in Overall Passenger Satisfaction by the International Air Transport Association; and

32 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
33 this distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 recognize Mr. Benjamin R. DeCosta for his effective, efficient, and exemplary service to
36 Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and the State of Georgia, congratulate him
37 upon the occasion of his retirement as general manager, and extend to him best wishes for
38 future health and happiness.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Benjamin R. DeCosta.